

ST BOTOLPH

C A M B R I D G E

From the Priest-in-Charge

Dear Friends

Newsletter 17

Welcome

Welcome. I intend to continue to issue these electronic Newsletters periodically when there is something to say.

While it has been wonderful to be back in church again these past three weeks, I am conscious that for several of you this has simply not been possible. Rest assured that you are very much missed and prayed for; I hope that circumstances may soon allow for your safe return.

If you haven't had the chance yet to see it in situ, here again is an image of our splendid new Bodley altar frontal, given by kind donations, which I was able to bless and dedicate two weeks ago. A matching Fall for the pulpit is now on order.



Wearing of Face Masks in Church

In the light of the Government's new requirement for face masks to be worn in shops, the Church Times reported last week that this requirement was to be extended to churches, although there would be no financial penalty on those who chose not to do so.

The Church of England has now issued the following guidance:

Q. Should I wear a face covering in a church building?

A. Face coverings are currently mandatory on public transport and will be mandatory in shops and in supermarkets from 24 July 2020. People are also encouraged to wear face coverings in enclosed public spaces where there are people they do not normally meet, such as a place of worship.

We strongly advise that face coverings should be worn by all those attending a place of worship, including ministers, worshippers, staff, volunteers, contractors and visitors, where there may be other people present; remembering that they are mainly intended to protect other people, not the wearer, from coronavirus COVID-19 and that they are not a replacement for physical distancing and regular hand washing.

My sense is that “strongly advise” means that we are all called now to wear a face mask in church. I shall do so, but I shall take it off at the Altar as this is a long way from everyone else and there may be difficulty in hearing me otherwise. I shall put the mask back on and use medical gloves for the administration of the Sacrament, as I have been doing.

Face masks should, of course, be adjusted to consume the wafer Host at Communion. If you choose not to wear a face covering in church, please ensure that you maintain a social distance of at least two metres or six feet from other worshippers.

Will Lyon Tupman

Will is an Ordinand at Westcott House and has attended some of our physical and online services recently. He will be preaching for us on 2nd August.

In the meantime, he has just sent me some hi-res images of the exterior that date back to mid-April, when the church was closed. Here is a nice one of the South Door in Spring, together later, with an image of our West Door:



Revd Patrick Cotton

Patrick has continued to be inspired to write verse and here are some that he has sent me recently:

On Emily Bronte

*Oh mother I am not regretting
To leave this wretched world below
If there be nothing but forgetting
In the dark land to which I go.* *Emily Bronte*

Oh Emily may you awaken
To brighter land now purged of woe
No longer feeling lost, forsaken
With gentle friends where'er you go

For life itself is a blessing
Moulding us, to make us whole
Sometimes times wounding, sometimes caressing
Thus it is it shapes our soul.

Border crossing

Encamped across the water
White cliffs at times we see
Waiting for a travel order
Longing for liberty

Rumours reach us, make us nervous
Dark clouds dominate the sky
New and stringent points demanded
Before we qualify

Have we got a job to go to?
Are our skills what they require?
Will we bring sufficient income?
Are we just what they desire?

Do we speak their perfect language?
Are we, like them, so tolerant?
Humble, gentle, quite unbiased?
Polite, sober and gallant?

Many come here, few are taken
Across to that promised land
We begin to feel forsaken
Marooned on shifting sand.

We dream of the ones that get there
Soon to wallow in luxury
Well fed, rich, self righteous -
Enviably prosperous!

I dream sometimes another dream
Camped by the sea of death
Distant cliffs beckon
Offering a freedom's breath

Are different worlds there to imagine?
Will the best be hard to win?
Will the skills we have to offer
Be enough to let us in?

Will we have a job to go to?
Are we so tolerant?
Are we like them, so forgiving?
Polite, sober and gallant?

Such a strange dream is disturbing,
I come back to the shifting sand
I turn to my companions
A happy little band

There's a carpenter, and fisherman
A tax-collector too
A prostitute, a publican
A cleaner at the zoo

There a drug addict and drunkard
And a quite demented man
A care-home assistant
Who does the best she can

None has any money
But on that shifting sand
Just for a miraculous moment
I was in that promised land.

Patrick is preaching on this coming Sunday, 26th July, and so there will be an opportunity to talk to him directly about his literary works.

Church Opening



Our current pattern of opening the church for private prayer on Tuesday, Friday and Saturday lunchtimes, 12 noon until 2pm, is drawing an increasing number of visitors, especially as the centre of Cambridge has become more active.

We do still need more volunteers to assist the core team though. Two hours might seem a long time, but it seems to go quickly enough, especially when there is a stream of visitors with whom to chat. They are often surprised to find the church actually open.

Can you help to open the doors, please, if only occasionally? This work is vital. If so, please have a word with Dan, who is co-ordinating this activity and can let you know what is involved. Dan can be reached by email on deiniolj@icloud.com or by telephone on 07780 116149.

We appear to have a difficulty in finding cover for Saturday 1st August, currently. Is anyone able to volunteer for this particular slot please? If so, please let Dan know.

Arthur Walmsley



Many of you have continued to ask after my grandson, Arthur. It is kind of you to have done so. He is doing very well, thank you. Julia has been visiting the family this past week and you might be interested to see the latest image of her and Arthur together.

Compline by Zoom

This short, evening service is offered *fortnightly* on a Wednesday evening at 9pm, by Zoom. The next service is on 29th July and I'll send out the Order of Service and Zoom joining link beforehand.

Yours in Christ

Fr Stephen
Priest-in-Charge
Parish Church of St Botolph, Cambridge